

Message Text

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EXDIS- DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS; PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GREEK COURSE UNCERTAIN

IN THE WAKE OF AN APPARENT ANTI- REGIME PLOT, EMBASSY
ATHENS REPORTS THAT THE GOVERNMENT' S FUTURE COURSE
IS UNCERTAIN. THE CURRENT SITUATION MAY WEAKEN THE
PRIME MINISTER AND CAUSE HARDLINERS IN THE LEADERSHIP
TO MOVE AGAINST HIM AND POSSIBLY TO PRESS FOR THE
ELIMINATION OF THE MONARCHY. THE NAVY HAS BEEN
IMPLICATED IN THE PLOT, BUT THE INVOLVEMENT OF THE
ARMY AND AIR FORCE HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED.
(CONFIDENTIAL) ATHENS 3265, 5/26 (EXDIS).

2. UK- ICELAND COD DISPUTE THICKENS

A. COAST GUARD FIRES ON TRAWLER

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EMBASSY REYKJAVIK REPORTS THAT AN ICELANDIC GUNBOAT FIRED TWO SHOTS INTO A BRITISH TRAWLER 30 MILES OFF ICELAND'S COAST. THE TRAWLER IGNORED WARNING SHOTS AND ORDERS TO HEAVE TO.

THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN REYKJAVIK HAS LODGED A FORMAL PROTEST. (UNCLASSIFIED) REYKJAVIK 596, 5/26.

B. OPPOSITION LEADER WARNS ICELAND MAY LEAVE NATO

GEIR HALLGRIMSSON, CHAIRMAN OF THE PRO- US OPPOSITION INDEPENDENCE PARTY, HAS WARNED AMBASSADOR IRVING THAT, UNLESS NATO TAKES POSITIVE STEPS TO MEDIATE THE FISHERIES DISPUTE, ICELAND MIGHT WITHDRAW FROM NATO. HALLGRIMSSON SAID THE PARLIAMENT'S FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ON MAY 28 WOULD PROBABLY CALL FOR THE DISPUTE TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE NAC AND THE UNSC. HE URGED THAT NATO FIND AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION BEFORE THE UNSC BECOMES INVOLVED. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT AN ACTIVE BUT DISCREET US ROLE IN THE NATO ACTION MIGHT HELP SAVE THE IDF. (SECRET) REYKJAVIK 595, 5/26.

(. NATO ROLE ASSESSED

IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR RUMSFELD'S CALL FOR SWIFT NATO ACTION IN THE UK- ICELAND DISPUTE, THE DEPARTMENT BELIEVES THAT NATO SHOULD NOT BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED. OUR POSITION IS THAT THIS IS A MATTER WHICH SHOULD BE SETTLED BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AND ONE IN WHICH THE US SHOULD NOT BECOME INVOLVED. (SECRET) USNATO 2607 AND STATE 102270 5/27 (EXDIS).

3. SECRETARY MEETS PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

THE SECRETARY DISCUSSED THE COURSE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY WITH PANAMANIAN FOREIGN MINISTER

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TACK IN BUENOS AIRES ON MAY 24. TACK AFFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S READINESS TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS AND ASSURED THE SECRETARY THAT FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE CONDUCTED IN PRIVATE. TACK ALSO HANDED THE SECRETARY A SUPPLEMENTARY LETTER ON THE SUBJECT. (CONFIDENTIAL) BUENOS AIRES 3767, 5/26. RUSH

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